

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. I, No. 5

NOVEMBER 15, 1922

*"Respect the child. Be not too much his parent.
Trespass not on his solitude."*—EMERSON.

TO MEMBERS:

DEATH OF DR. KNIGHT

DR. FREDERIC H. KNIGHT, Superintendent of the New England Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, and Treasurer of the Child Welfare League of America, died on October 15th, after a brief illness. His going leaves a large gap in the children's work of the country. Mr. Alfred F. Whitman, General Secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Association, 184 Boylston Street, has been chosen Treasurer of the League, to succeed Dr. Knight.

AN IMPORTANT INJUNCTION SUIT

A decree has recently been entered prohibiting the public solicitation and sale of various magazines purporting to be sold in the interest of child welfare. The children's agencies of Boston have shown that they were purely individual enterprises, commercialized the charitable spirit of the public and played upon the good will of various charities in the children's field.

About a year ago the number of these magazines and their appeals to the public increased very much. People who purchased them generally believed that they were contributing to the support of various charitable organizations working in the interest of children, for nothing was said by the solicitors to the contrary. On the outside cover, or sometimes on the inside of the magazines, there appeared in fine type a statement that they were sold for commercial purposes only, but this statement was made as inconspicuous as possible.

The final decree enjoins the publishers or their agents from selling in Massachusetts any magazine, pamphlet or writing under the name of the "Baby Hygiene" or "Infant Hygiene" or "Children's Aid" or under any name of which the words "Baby," "Infant," or "Hygiene" form any part, or under the name of the "Children's Aid Magazine" or under any substantially similar name. They are further enjoined from using in the sale the slogan "Help the Babies," or any salutation

calculated to induce in the minds of the purchasers the reasonable belief that the proceeds would inure to the benefit of children's work.

The Baby Hygiene Association and the Boston Children's Aid Association were the principal complainants, but they were backed in this movement by the whole children's group of the Boston Council of Social Agencies. A prominent law firm brought the bill in equity, five or six different agencies were parties to the complaint, and temporary injunction was granted in April, and by consent of counsel the injunction was made permanent in June.

Members of the League who are suffering from the publication and sale of similar papers in other states should take heart from the action in Massachusetts.

NEW COMMITTEES

The President of the League has appointed the following persons to serve as a Committee on Nominations for the Annual Meeting in Washington, May, 1923:

Miss Caroline M. Crosby, St. Paul, Chairman.
J. V. Hawk, Helena, Montana.
James E. Ewers, Cleveland.
Marcus C. Fagg, Jacksonville, Florida.
Alfred F. Whitman, Boston.

The President of the League has also appointed a Committee to Co-operate With Churches and Fraternal Orders. This membership is as follows:

Edwin D. Solenberger, Philadelphia, Chairman.
J. V. Hawk, Helena, Montana.
Mrs. Edwin H. Steedman, St. Louis, Mo.
Judge Samuel D. Murphy, Birmingham, Alabama.
Henry W. Thurston, New York.
C. C. Carstens, New York.

A CHILD ADOPTION LEAGUE

The New York State Charities Aid Association has organized a Child Adoption League. This League will consist of both adults and children who are interested in helping to find homes for homeless, orphaned, neglected and abused children. It will give people who are

touched by the appeal of a child for help a concrete opportunity to respond to such appeals. Lovers of children may join as individuals or groups, dues ranging from \$2.00 to \$50.00 per year. Clubs, Sunday schools, church societies, and other classes or organizations are invited to participate in this work.

AN INTERESTING RESPONSE

The Michigan Children's Aid Society makes careful inquiry of the references given by those who wish to receive a child. The following is the contents of an actual letter received by them:

"Dear Madam:

I write this to let you know I do not want to get a baby from your Society. I answered all the questions you sent and instead of believing me you send letters and questions to others.

I try to be and am as good a mother as other women and if that is not enough for your babies, well I say keep them. I can get a baby somewhere else this summer just as well.

If you find parents for your children as good as the questions you ask you must live in a different world than I do, for I fail to see any around here that are so perfect. Hoping you find homes for your babies where parents have their wings started, I am

INTER-SOCIETY SERVICE

The territorial limitations of the children's agencies that were admitted to membership in the League and were mentioned in the BULLETIN of October 15th are as follows:

ALABAMA—Child Welfare Department, Montgomery. Articles 1, 2, and 3, State of Alabama.

MICHIGAN—St. Vincent de Paul Society, Detroit. Articles 1, 2, and 3, Detroit.

WISCONSIN—Children's Home Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Articles 1, 2, and 3, State of Wisconsin.

CANADA—Bureau of Child Protection, Regina, Saskatchewan. Articles 1, 2, and 3, Saskatchewan.

"And he who gives a child a treat
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom Come,
And she who gives a baby birth
Brings Saviour Christ again to Earth,
For life is joy, and mind is fruit,
And body's precious earth and root."

We reprint the above verses, because since last month we have been able to correct an error in the last line, and we have also learned where the poem may be found. The lines are contained in "The Everlasting Mercy," which appears in the "Poems and Plays of John Masefield," Macmillan Company, 1918.

Please put the name of the League on your regular mailing list for publications, annual reports, appeals and other literature, if we are not already there.

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The American Association for Labor Legislation announces that on July 1, 1922, all the territory of the United States and Canada was covered by Workmen's Compensation Laws, with the exception of Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, North and South Carolina. The relationship between workmen's compensation laws and dependent children is so close that we all ought to be interested to give encouragement to their development.

The Near East Relief announces that they must make plans for the care of 20,000 children that are now in Asia Minor in various parts of Europe. Because of our immigration laws none can be sent to the United States. They will probably be cared for in some of the Balkan States.

"Child Life," published by Rand, McNally & Co., is a beautifully illustrated monthly magazine that is useful and educative for foster mothers, social workers, and children themselves. It will be added to the regular magazine files of the League and will be available for loaning purposes.

The Ruggles Street Nursery School and Training Centre of Boston has established a training course for directors of nursery schools for children of pre-school age. The course is planned to involve child care in every aspect, the family, and the typical city neighborhood. It will be valuable to the social worker, to the woman in charge of the family, as well as to the director of a nursery school.

IS THE BOY TO BLAME?—Bobbie Brown gets into all kinds of scrapes, but his father pals around with him whenever he can and his mother never loses faith in him and the "Visiting Teacher" helps straighten out knotty

problems and opens up new opportunities and at most he is just A NAUGHTY YOUNGSTER.

Billy Jones gets into all kinds of scrapes, but his father doesn't seem to care and his mother admits she can't do anything with him and there isn't any "Visiting Teacher" to help out, so one day the law catches him and he is taken into Juvenile Court and is known as A JUVENILE DELINQUENT. (From the Common Weal.)

Owen R. Lovejoy of the National Child Labor Committee points out that while child labor has been greatly reduced since 1910, it has not been cut in half, as the 1920 statistics from the Census would seem to indicate. When the 1920 Census was taken the nation was in the throes of a wide industrial depression. Besides the Federal Child Labor Tax Law was still in effect then. Most of all the Census was taken in January, when agricultural operations were largely at a standstill, whereas the Census of 1910 was taken in April when they had just begun.

The German National Child Welfare Law of July 9, 1922, provides supervision over placed-out children and all illegitimate children. The law will be administered by local and state children's boards under the supervision of a national children's bureau. It does not go into effect until April 1, 1924.

The Eyesight Conservation Council of America, with headquarters in the Times Building, New York City, is establishing a special mailing list for those who wish to receive material of service to lecturers and writers on the subject of conservation of vision.

At the National Conference of Catholic Charities, held in Washington in September last, two sessions were devoted to the work of the Committee on Children. Causative factors in delinquency and curative factors in delinquency were two of the subjects discussed.

Rhode Island laws relating to children have been codified under authority of the Legislature of 1921, and published by the Rhode Island Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, at their annual meeting in San Fran-

cisco, adopted a Uniform Illegitimacy Act. It deals almost entirely with the obligation of the parents for the child's support. While it is ahead of the laws in certain states, a number of the states of the Union have already taken a more advanced position.

The Directory of Child Health Agencies in the United States, published by the Children's Bureau, contains 861 local agencies actively engaged in the promotion of child health through maternity care, infant care, and the care of the child of pre-school age.

SLOW BUT SURE—"How often do you brush your teeth, Alex?" the visitor asked a boy who had come to the Home Bureau a month ago.

"Oh, 'bout twice a week."

"Only twice a week!"

"Wait, I never used to brush them at all," said Alex.
(From The Homefinder.)

ENCLOSURES

There is sent herewith a copy of a questionnaire devised by the Research Committee of the American Association of Social Workers. Its purpose is to gather information, without revealing names or addresses, of the various fields of activity in social work. The Committee hopes to throw light on technique and on the standards that now obtain and should obtain with reference to salary, training, and professional performance.

In order that this information may be representative, an adequate number of workers in the children's field should file personal data. Family workers have made good response, but so far only 105 questionnaires have reached the Association from persons involving case work with children. This is not enough.

The form of the questionnaire safeguards its confidential nature. The members of the League are asked to take the matter up with their staffs. Additional questionnaires will be gladly sent upon request.

We also enclose a very interesting number of the New York State Charities Aid Association News. This contains Mrs. Honore Willsie's article, entitled "The Adopted Mother," reprinted from the Century of September, 1922.

In addition we enclose the October number of the C. A. S. News, published by the St. Louis Children's Aid Society, which contains sketches of actual cases handled by the Society, together with a report of its work for the last three months.

LIBRARY LIST NO. 14

BOOKS

1. Adler, Felix. *Moral Instruction of Children*. 1895. This was published a generation ago but is still of the greatest value. Dr. Adler has for many years been the leader of the Ethical Culture Society of New York.
2. Cameron, Hector Charles. *The Nervous Child*. 1920. Dr. Cameron discusses the causes and influence of nervousness on the appetite and indigestion, sleep, amusements, growth, and school life. On the whole the book is non-technical, although doubtless physicians would read it with as much interest as parents and social workers.
3. Catholic Charities, Directory of. Edited by Rev. Father John O'Grady. 1922. The information which this Directory has gathered together from all the states in the Union is of the greatest value and may be consulted at this office or by correspondence. We do not deem it best to lend this book.
4. Chapin, Henry Dwight. *Heredity and Child Culture*. 1922. Dr. Chapin discusses the interrelations of heredity with environment in an interesting way. He devotes a chapter to the dependent child, and gives details of the Speedwell Plan.
5. Douglass, Harlan Paul. *The Little Town*, 1919. If the last several decades may be thought of as having brought child welfare to the front in social work, the next few decades will doubtless emphasize the social work in rural communities. Dr. Douglass' studies and observations will be of value in any study of rural social work.
6. Hart, Joseph K. *Community Organization*. 1920. This is one of the volumes of the Social Welfare Library, edited by Dr. Devine. It is a brief discussion of the fundamental principles of community organization which the children's agencies must understand in the new developments that are coming into children's work in their relation to the federation of social agencies.
7. Oberholtzer, Ellis Paxson. *The Morals of the Movie*. 1922. Dr. Oberholtzer was for six years a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Censors. He uses the information obtained during that period to prove his case, namely, that the motion picture may be a great menace to childhood from the standpoint of morality, and that systematic supervision is necessary. Also he has an interesting chapter on the picture in politics.
8. Patri, Angelo. *A Schoolmaster of the Great City*. 1917. Mr. Patri is a great educator in one of the crowded districts of New York. His homely illustrations and sound advice are being given broad circulation by the metropolitan newspapers.
9. Queen, Stuart Alfred. *Social Work in the Light of History*. 1922. This is a brief history of the various developments in social work. Probably the greatest contribution is in providing for us several chapters on the English Poor Law as related to American development and experience. There is also a good chapter on the development of ecclesiastical charities.
10. Root, Wm. T., Jr. *Socio-Psychological Study of 53 Supernormal Children*. 1921. This is a psychological monograph published by the Psychological Review Company, Princeton, New Jersey. Supernormal children have not had their share of study, and for this reason the present volume should be of interest and help to children's agencies which occasionally have the supernormal to deal with. The case descriptions are sufficiently in detail to prove interesting to case workers.
11. Solomon, Harry C., and Maida Herman. *Syphilis of the Innocent*. 1922. This book contains a study of the social effects of syphilis on the family and the community, with 152 illustrative cases. It is published by the United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board. Its distribution is limited.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

INDIANA.—The Children's Aid Association, Indianapolis, has become amalgamated into the Family Welfare Society and has become the Children's Department of that organization. Paul L. Kirby has resigned as General Secretary. Paul Benjamin is Director of the Family Welfare Society. The address is unchanged.

IOWA.—The Iowa Children's Home Society. Miss Laura L. Taft has succeeded Rev. A. T. Burnell as State Superintendent.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Children's Bureau, Philadelphia. New address—1432 Pine Street.

Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Erskine has been appointed Secretary.

C. C. CARSTENS, *Director*.